

CLAIMS

1. A tool container, comprising:

two housing members pivotally coupled with one another for opening and closing with respect to one another, at least one housing member defining a cavity for receiving tools, said cavity defined by a base and a wall extending from said base;

an insert for retaining tools, said insert permanently secured in said cavity, said insert having a surface for securing with said member base or wall; and

a mechanism for locking said pair of housing members with respect to one another in a closed position.

2. The tool container according to Claim 1, wherein said surface being a plurality of alternating dove-tail recesses and tenons on said insert and said wall, said tenons cooperating with opposing recesses.

3. The tool container according to Claim 2, wherein said tenons have a front face being angled at about one (1°) degree with respect to vertical.

4. The tool container according to Claim 3, wherein said recesses have faces at angles corresponding to said tenon front faces for locking the tenons and recesses together.

5. The tool container according to Claim 1, wherein said housing base having a roughed surface.

6. The tool container according to Claim 5, wherein said insert has a roughed surface being in contact with said base roughed surface, and wherein the surfaces are ultrasonically welded together.

7. The tool container according to Claim 1, wherein said insert includes a plurality of tool-receiving members.

8. The tool container according to Claim 7, wherein at least one retaining member being adjacent said tool-receiving member for retaining the tool in the receiving member.

9. The tool container according to Claim 1, wherein said locking mechanism includes a rail member on each housing member and a latch slidable on said rail members between a locked and unlocked position.

10. The tool container according to Claim 9, wherein said rail members being arcuate.

11. The tool container according to Claim 10, wherein said latch having a channel for receiving said rails, said channel defined by an arcuate base surface in said latch, two side walls extending from said base and two flanges extending from said side walls towards one another.

12. The tool container according to Claim 11, wherein said base surface is arcuate along both a longitudinal and lateral axis.

13. The tool container according to Claim 11, wherein one of said flanges including a cut-out enhancing coupling with said rails.

14. The tool container according to Claim 9, wherein said latch including first indicia indicating a locked and unlocked position.

15. The tool container according to Claim 14, wherein said latch includes a second indicia indicating direction of movement.

16. The tool container according to Claim 9, wherein said latch is comprised of a first member covered by a second member.

17. The tool container according to Claim 16, wherein said first member providing rigidity to said latch.

18. The tool container according to Claim 16, wherein a portion of said first member extending through said second member providing an indicia member and said portion having a surface substantially flush with said second member.

19. The tool container according to Claim 18, wherein said second member including a second indicia member.

20. The tool container according to Claim 10, wherein said rail members are longitudinally arcuate and laterally arcuate.

21. A latch for a tool container, comprising:
a body;
a channel in said body for receiving a rail, said channel defined by an arcuate base surface in said latch, two side walls extending from said base and two flanges extending from said side walls towards one another.

22. The latch according to Claim 21, wherein said base surface is arcuate along both a longitudinal and lateral axis.

23. The latch according to Claim 21, wherein one of said flanges including a cut-out enhancing coupling with said rails.

24. The latch according to Claim 21, wherein said latch including indicia indicating a locked and unlocked position.

25. The latch according to Claim 24, wherein said latch includes a second indicia indicating direction of movement.

26. The latch according to Claim 21, wherein said latch comprised of a first member covered by a second member.

27. The latch according to Claim 26, wherein said first member providing rigidity to said latch.

28. The latch according to Claim 26, wherein a portion of said first member extending through said second member providing an indicia member and said portion having a surface substantially flush with said second member.

29. The latch according to Claim 28, wherein said second member including a second indicia member.

30. The latch according to Claim 21, wherein said body having an arcuate outer surface enabling manipulation by a user.

31. The latch according to Claim 26, wherein said second member is a soft material providing a gripping surface.

32. The latch according to Claim 26, wherein said first member being formed from polypropylene and said second member formed from krayton.

33. The tool container according to Claim 1, wherein said insert having a mechanism for self-orientating a tool bit in said insert.

34. The tool container according to Claim 32, wherein said mechanism includes two fingers extending from said insert and a V-shaped tool receiving channel, said two fingers, if necessary, rotating a tool bit to seat a tool bit apex in an apex of said V-shaped tool receiving channel.

35. The tool container according to Claim 7, wherein said tool receiving members have a V-shaped cradle for receiving a tool.

36. The tool container according to Claim 35, wherein said V-shaped cradle has an aperture forming two spaced V-shaped cradle portions.

37. The tool container according to Claim 36, wherein two fingers are positioned adjacent said apertures for enabling flexing of said fingers to maintain the tool bit in said V-shaped cradle portions.

38. The tool container according to Claim 7, wherein a wall member being positioned at an end of said insert adjacent said tool receiving members.

39. A tool retaining insert, comprising:

a body member;

a plurality of V-shaped tool receiving cradles; and

a mechanism coupled with said body adjacent said V-shaped

5 tool receiving cradles for retaining tools in said cradles.

40. The insert according to Claim 39, wherein said mechanism and V-shaped cradle self-orientate tool bits in said cradle.

41. The insert according to Claim 40, wherein said mechanism includes two fingers extending from said insert said two fingers, if necessary, rotating a tool bit to seat a tool bit apex in an apex of said V-shaped tool receiving channel.

42. The insert according to Claim 39, wherein said V-shaped cradle has an aperture forming two spaced V-shaped cradle portions.

43. The insert according to Claim 42, wherein two fingers are positioned adjacent said apertures for enabling flexing of said fingers to maintain the tool bit in said V-shaped cradle portions.

44. The insert according to Claim 39, wherein a wall member being positioned at an end of said insert adjacent said tool receiving members.

45. The insert according to Claim 39, wherein said insert includes a mechanism adapted to couple with a container for positioning said insert in a plurality of positions in the container.

46. The insert according to Claim 45, wherein said mechanism being dove-tail tenons and recesses.

47. The insert according to Claim 39, wherein said insert includes eight V-shaped tool receiving cradles.

48. The insert according to Claim 39, wherein said body includes five V-shaped tool receiving cradles.

49. A tool container, comprising:

a housing member defining a cavity for receiving tools, said cavity defined by a base and a wall extending from said base;

5 a plurality of inserts for retaining tools, said plurality of inserts being multi-positionable in said housing member at any one of a plurality of predetermined positions and being substantially permanently secured in said cavity, said inserts having a surface for securing with said housing member base or wall.

50. The tool container according to Claim 49, wherein said wall having alternating tenons and grooves.

51. The tool container according to Claim 50, wherein said inserts have alternating tenons and grooves for mating with said wall.

52. The tool container according to Claim 49, wherein said wall and inserts having either cut-outs or projecting members for coupling with one another to position said inserts in one of a plurality of positions in said cavity.

53. The tool container according to Claim 49, wherein said wall has said projecting members and said inserts have said cut-outs.

54. The tool container according to Claim 49, wherein a second housing member defining a cavity for receiving inserts is hingedly coupled with said first housing member, said members moving from an open to a closed position.

55. A method of making a tool container, comprising:

providing a housing member having a cavity defined by a base and a wall extending from said base;

5 providing at least one tool receiving insert having a plurality of tool receiving members, said wall or base and said at least one tool receiving insert having mating mechanisms;

positioning said at least one insert in one of a plurality of predetermined positions in said cavity wherein said mating mechanism mate with one another; and

10 securing said at least one insert in said cavity.

56. The method according to Claim 55, wherein said mating mechanisms are projecting members and recesses.

57. The method according to Claim 55, wherein said projecting members and recesses are dove-tail tenons and grooves.

58. The method according to Claim 55, further comprising providing a plurality of inserts and positioning and securing said plurality of inserts in said cavity.

59. The method according to Claim 55, wherein said securing is by said mating members.

60. The method according to Claim 55, further comprising hingedly securing a second housing member with a cavity to said first housing member.

61. The method according to Claim 60, further comprising positioning and securing at least one insert into said second housing member.

62. A method of securing a tool bit in a tool retaining insert, comprising:

providing a tool retaining insert having at least one V-shaped tool receiving cradle and two fingers extending from said insert adjacent said at least one tool receiving cradle;

providing a tool having a polygonal cross-section;

positioning said tool on said fingers;

applying a force on said tool to spread said fingers;

forcing said tool past said fingers into said V-shaped cradle wherein upon forcing past said finger, said fingers, if necessary, rotating and orientating said tool such that an apex of said tool seats in an apex of said V-shaped cradle.

63. The method according to Claim 62, wherein if rotating of the tool is not necessary, said tool apex seats directly in said apex of said V-shaped cradle.

64. The tool container according to Claim 15, wherein one of said indicia is in a contrasting color with respect to the other.

65. The tool container according to Claim 64, wherein one indicia is yellow and the other black.

66. The latch according to Claim 29, wherein one of said indicia is in a contrasting color with respect to the other.

67. The latch according to Claim 66, wherein said first member indicia being yellow and said second member including said second indicia being black.

68. A tool container, comprising:

two housing members pivotally coupled with one another for opening and closing with respect to one another, each housing member defining a cavity for receiving tools, said cavity defined by a base and a closed peripheral wall extending from the base;

at least one insert for retaining tools permanently secured in each cavity, said insert having at least one recess or projecting member for mating with an opposing projecting member or recess in said wall;

an arcuate rail on each of said housing members; and

a latch for coupling with said rail, said latch including an arcuate channel for receiving said arcuate rail, said latch having a first rigid member and a soft outer covering with a first indicia member from said first rigid member projecting through said second soft member and a second indicia member being on said second member and said first and second indicia member being of contrasting colors.